

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 1, 2006. New Claims 34 to 49 are pending in the application, of which Claims 34 and 42 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2001/0043340 (Murata). Claims 23 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,137 (Ozawa). Claims 3 to 5 and 14 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murata. Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murata in view of Canon Camera Story 1997-2000 (reference U in the Office Action dated December 20, 2005, referred to herein as "Reference U"). Claims 7 to 10 and 18 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murata in view of Ozawa.. Claims 11 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murata in view of Ozawa, and in further view of Reference U. As claims 1 to 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, new independent Claim 34 is directed to an image processing apparatus capable of detachably mounting thereon a recording medium on which image data are recorded so that an external printer can read out the recorded image data. The image processing apparatus includes generating means for generating print setting information for printing by the external printer; and analyzing means for causing the external printer to read out, from the recording medium, print setting items information indicative of items settable by the external printer and analyzing the

read-out print setting item information, when the generating means generates the print setting information. The generating means generates the print setting information on the basis of the print setting item information analyzed by the analyzing means, and, on the recording medium, the print setting item information indicative of the item settable by the external printer is recorded with respect to a plurality of the external printers.

Accordingly, Claim 34 features an image processing apparatus which is capable of detachably mounting thereon a recording medium on which image data are recorded so that an external printer can read out the recorded image data, is arranged to generate print setting information on the basis of print setting item information read out from the recording medium on which the print setting item information indicative of the item settable by the external printer is recorded with respect to a plurality of the external printers such as printers 412 and 413 of Fig.4. According to this feature of the present invention, a user of the image processing apparatus can select a desired printer as discussed on page 12, lines 12 to 13 of the present application. In this regard, the dependent claims include the feature that the recording medium includes a directory for managing setting items, as illustrated in Fig.4, and setting item information including information for specifying the printer such as a header section.

The above-described features of the present invention are not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of the references, namely Murata, Ozawa and Reference U, either alone or in combination. Specifically, in Murata, print function information is loaded from a digital copy machine to a memory card and then subjected to setting processing by a printer driver such as in a Personal Computer (PC). That is, on the memory card, only the print function information of the digital copy machine is recorded.

Therefore, Murata fails to disclose or suggest that the recording medium on which print setting item information indicative of items settable by an external printer is recorded with respect to a plurality of the external printers, and thus does not disclose or suggest the image processing apparatus functioning together with the recording medium, as featured in new independent Claim 34.

In addition, the reference of Ozawa discloses a system in which a camera and a printer communicate with each other via wireless communication. The camera communicates with the printer to receive a print data forming software to set a print condition, and send the set print condition to the printer. In Ozawa, the camera communicates with only one printer. Ozawa therefore also fails to teach the recording medium of the present invention. Finally, Reference U merely discloses use of a DPOF file.

Therefore, Murata, Ozawa and Reference U, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 34. In light of this deficiency, Applicant submits that independent Claim 34 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claim 42 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 34. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims Claim 42 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

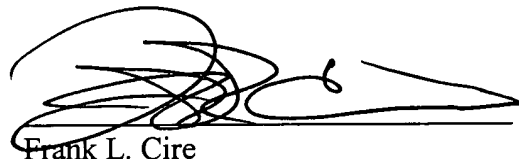
The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional

aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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